

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 839

By Green

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory and heroism of Lieutenant Douglas Milford Lyons, United States Army, on the 100th anniversary of his death.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, on October 12, 1918, Lieutenant Douglas Milford Lyons of Stewart County made the supreme sacrifice while serving his country as an officer in the United States Army during World War I; and

WHEREAS, on that fateful day, Lt. Lyons was leading his men in battle near Verdun, France, when he was killed by enemy fire; he posthumously received the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism, and his name is appropriately included on the wall honoring Tennessee soldiers who died in World War I at the Tennessee War Memorial Building and Plaza; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Lyons left behind his parents, three sisters, and a brother to mourn his passing but also proudly honor his memory and the ultimate sacrifice he bravely made for them and for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, three days before his death, Lt. Lyons wrote and posted a letter to his parents at their home in his native Ft. Henry in Stewart County; his mother, Ida Clara Champion Lyons, graciously donated that letter to the Tennessee State Archives; and

WHEREAS, on September 26, 1930, the American Legion post in Dover was chartered as Douglas M. Lyons Post 72 in honor of this true American hero; and

WHEREAS, on October 13, 2018, Lt. Lyons's family members from at least five Tennessee counties and eight other states and members of American Legion Post 72 will

gather together at Fort Donelson National Cemetery to remember the enduring legacy of this courageous soldier, one of this nation's best and brightest young men, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his death in combat; and

WHEREAS, we can never truly repay our debt to Lt. Lyons, but it is important that we honor his memory and express our gratitude to the fullest extent possible, for he gave his life to preserve freedom and humanity; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory and heroism of Lieutenant Douglas Milford Lyons, United States Army, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his death and stand with his family members and the members of American Legion Post 72 in remembering his life of purpose and commitment and saluting his service to our country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.